



**Montana
Office of Public Instruction**
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

**ESEA/NCLB Title I
School Improvement Fund
Application
Section 1003(a) Regular**

The State Educational Agency (SEA) will allocate a specified amount of its ESEA Title I, Part A section 1003(a) regular grant funds separately from the 1003(a) funds which have already been allocated for the school year 2010-11. Funds will be available after February 25, 2011.

Which Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) are eligible to apply?

LEAs with one or more Tier I and/or Tier III schools ranked number 1 to number 50, but not currently receiving a Tier I SIG grant are eligible. Individual school rankings may be found on the Title I, Part A page of the Montana Office of Public Instruction's (OPI) web site.

What criteria will be used to determine grant award recipients?

The LEA's commitment to the school improvement process, as evidenced by a narrative accompanying this application, and their implementation of the Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP) at both the district and school levels will be used to determine grant award recipients.

What is the process?

- 1) The LEA will submit a completed application to the SEA by January 31, 2011.
 - a) This application will include a description of how the LEA will implement one, but not more than two of the five improvement strategies listed in this document, and explain how the decisions about using each strategy are based on data.
 - b) This description must include how these strategies specifically contribute to achieving the annual measurable objectives in the CSIP, OR how these strategies will help the schools achieve the goals necessary to exit improvement status.
 - c) The LEA will assure the SEA that they will carry out all of the required components of the grant.
- 2) The SEA will review the past performance of each eligible LEA applying for funds to determine whether the LEA conducted a prompt review of its CSIP to incorporate needed changes into the School Improvement Plan, and if all of the required state reports have been completed properly and turned in on time.
 - a) How effectively and efficiently the LEA has expended funds for improvement in the past including previous 1003(a) and 1003(g) grant funds.
 - b) Past conduct on the part of the LEA officials with regard to embracing school improvement or displaying resistant attitudes/actions will be taken into account.

How are the grant award amounts determined?

To determine grant award amounts to ensure sufficient size and scope to support improvement activities:



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- a) The application will be reviewed for the appropriate match between planned activities with resources requested. No grant will be less than \$10,000 or more than \$20,000 for each participating school.
- b) The LEA must show how these funds will be integrated with other funds awarded by the SEA under the ESEA/NCLB.

Monitoring

The SEA will require an interim report, due no later than June 30, 2011, for each LEA that receives funds that will contain information on how implementation of the selected strategy or strategies has been successful. A final monitoring report will consist of a written final report along with the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) determination or other documentation of academic improvement for the LEA receiving the funds. This report is due to the Office of Public Instruction no later than November 1, 2011. Failure to abide by the terms of the grant requirements and assurances will result in the loss of or repayment of all 1003(a) regular grant monies.

These funds, along with funds reserved under section 1003(a), are intended to support high-quality, sustainable school improvement activities that increase the likelihood that students learn challenging academic content and achieve proficiency.

The measurable outcomes for this grant are:

- a) The number and percentage of students who score proficient in reading/language arts and mathematics, as measured by the MontCAS or other indicators of academic improvement will increase in the LEA.
- b) The LEA receiving school improvement funds will make AYP and move out of improvement status.
- c) The LEA will make decisions regarding the use of these funds based on data and create systems of continuous feedback and improvement.

School Improvement Strategies: (Required)

The LEA must assure the SEA that the following strategies will be performed to improve student learning to move the school/district out of improvement.

- a) The school will use research-based school improvement strategies to guide the school improvement process. Fidelity to the strategies must be maintained.
- b) A district or school improvement team consisting of the school administrative team, teacher leaders (3), and parents/community members (1) will be established. This team will be responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the action plans.
- c) The school will develop or enhance its data analysis processes to guide the school improvement process.



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School Improvement Strategies: (Select at least one, but no more than two.)

The LEA will choose the most effective strategies from the following list, based on the data that reflect individual circumstances, in building the LEA and school capacity to improve student achievement and move schools out of improvement.

- 1.) Provide customized technical assistance and/or professional development that is designed to build the capacity of the LEA and school staff to improve schools which is informed by student achievement data and other outcome-related measures.
- 2.) Utilize research-based strategies or practices to change instructional practice that address the academic achievement problems which caused the school to be identified for improvement.
- 3.) Create partnerships among the SEA, LEAs and other entities for the purpose of delivering technical assistance, professional development, and management advice.
- 4.) Provide professional development to enhance the capacity of the school improvement team members and district and school stakeholders to improve student learning.
- 5.) Implement other strategies determined by the SEA or LEA, as appropriate, for which data indicate the strategy is likely to result in improved teaching and learning in schools identified for improvement.

Directions: Complete this form and submit to the SEA.

This form must be completed and received by the OPI by January 31, 2011, to be eligible for these additional funds.

District Name _____ LEA _____

School Name _____ SC _____ Amount requested _____

School Name _____ SC _____ Amount requested _____

School Name _____ SC _____ Amount requested _____

School Name _____ SC _____ Amount requested _____

**Please sign each of the required assurances based upon the required strategies of the grant.
To be signed by the school board chairperson or designee.**



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1. The school will use research-based school improvement strategies to guide the school improvement process. Fidelity to the strategies must be maintained.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. A school improvement team consisting of the school administrative team, teacher leaders, and parents/community members will be established. This team will be responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the action plans.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. The school will develop or enhance its data analysis processes to guide the school improvement process.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please indicate the school improvement strategy/strategies that you will target with this grant and explain how the decisions about using each strategy are based on data. Include a description of the school improvement model that has been adopted by the district/school.

I understand that failure to follow the requirements of the grant will result in the loss of or repayment of all remaining 1003(a) regular grant monies authorized in this grant.

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

Return to: Montana Office of Public Instruction
ATTN: Clare Bridge
P O Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

FAX: (406) 444-3924



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Fiscal Requirements

School Improvement programs are required to describe:

- How ESEA Title I-A School Improvement funds, ESEA Title I-A building funds and funds from other sources will be used to implement the School Improvement Plan; and
- How ESEA Title I-A funding will supplement state and local funding.

Funding Sources

List all federal and state sources of funds allocated to this school. The estimated general education (building) funds and federal funds allocated to this school should be recorded on the chart below.

Funding Source	Amount
General Education:	(see attached budget)
ESEA Title I-A School Improvement	
ESEA Title I-A Building Allocation	
ESEA Title II-A	
ESEA Title II-D	
ESEA Title III	

Uses of Funds

Budget Narrative

Provide a brief budget narrative explaining how funds listed in the table above will be combined and used to support the School Improvement Plan. Include in this narrative the costs associated with travel expenses for any professional development needed for plan implementation.